

WE CLAIM:

1. A portable electronic device comprising:

an expansion base module including a housing that has front and rear ends and opposite first and second side walls that extend between said front and rear ends in a longitudinal direction, each of said first and second side walls being formed with parallel upper and lower sliding grooves that extend in said longitudinal direction and that open toward each other in a transverse direction relative to said longitudinal direction;

a system module mounted slidably on said expansion base module and having two opposite sides; and

15 a pair of sliding units mounted slidably and respectively on said first and second side walls of said housing, respectively connected to said opposite sides of said system module, and slidable relative to said expansion base module in said longitudinal direction, each of said sliding units including a sliding seat, a first upper rolling member that is pivotally mounted on said sliding seat, that is disposed outwardly of said lower sliding groove in the respective one of said first and second side walls, 20 that is received in said upper sliding groove in the respective one of said first and second side walls, and that is in rolling contact with the respective

one of said first and second side walls, and a first lower rolling member that is pivotally mounted on said sliding seat, that is disposed outwardly of said upper sliding groove in the respective one of said first and second side walls, that is received in said lower sliding groove in the respective one of said first and second side walls, and that is in rolling contact with the respective one of said first and second side walls.

10 2. The portable electronic device of Claim 1, wherein each of said sliding units further includes a second upper rolling member that is pivotally mounted on said sliding seat, that is disposed outwardly of said lower sliding groove in the respective one of said first and second side walls, that is received in said upper sliding groove in the respective one of said first and second side walls, that is aligned with said first upper rolling member in said longitudinal direction, and that is in rolling contact with the respective one of said first and second side walls, and a second lower rolling member that is pivotally mounted on said sliding seat, that is disposed outwardly of said upper sliding groove in the respective one of said first and second side walls, that is received in said lower sliding groove in the respective one of said first and second side walls, that is aligned with said first lower rolling member in said longitudinal direction,

and that is in rolling contact with the respective one of said first and second side walls.

3. The portable electronic device of Claim 2, wherein said first and second upper rolling members are 5 disposed between said first and second lower rolling members.

4. The portable electronic device of Claim 3, wherein each of said first and second upper rolling members and said first and second lower rolling members is 10 in the form of a roller bearing.

5. The portable electronic device of Claim 1, wherein each of said first and second side walls is indented inwardly to form an elongated recess that extends between said front and rear ends of said housing and 15 that is defined by a recess-defining wall, said recess-defining wall having opposite upper and lower wall portions that are opposite to each other in said transverse direction and that are respectively formed with said upper and lower sliding grooves.

20 6. The portable electronic device of Claim 5, wherein said sliding seat is received in said recess in the respective one of said first and second side walls.

7. The portable electronic device of Claim 1, further comprising a cross bar that defines a system-mounting 25 groove and that has two opposite sides, said system module having a lower end that extends between said opposite sides of said system module and that is

mounted in said system-mounting groove, each of said sliding units further including a hinge hub that is sidewisely disposed adjacent to a respective one of said opposite sides of said cross bar and a respective 5 one of said first and second side walls of said housing, and parallel upper and lower shafts that project therefrom, each of said opposite sides of said cross bar being pivoted to said upper shaft of a respective one of said sliding units, said lower shaft of each 10 of said sliding units projecting into said recess in the respective one of said first and second side walls of said housing and being connected to said sliding seat.

8. The portable electronic device of Claim 7, further 15 comprising a connector mounted in said housing and disposed adjacent to one of said first and second side walls, and a cable that has a first segment electrically connected to said connector and extending therefrom along a first path into said hinge 20 hub, a second segment extending from said first segment along a second path into said system-mounting groove in said cross bar, and a third segment extending from said second segment and connected to said system module, said first path including a first 25 line that extends from said connector in said longitudinal direction to said rear end of said housing, and a second line that extends transversely

from said first line into said hinge hub, said second path including a first line that extends from said second line of said first path in said transverse direction to said upper shaft, and a second line that 5 extends transversely from said first line of said second path along said upper shaft into said system-mounting groove, said first and third segments being in the form of a ribbon cable, said second segment having a circular cross-section.